

Tawas Area Schools  
Regular Board of Education Meeting  
October 11, 2021

The regular meeting of the Tawas Area Board of Education was called to order by Vice-President Ulman at 7:01 p.m. on Monday, October 11, 2021 in the boardroom at the administration office and through Google Meets or a teleconferencing method.

Mrs. Edmonds led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Roll Call:

Present: VanderVeen, Bruning, Edmonds, Lentz and Ulman  
Absent: Klenow  
Tardy: Butzin

Administrators Present: Klinger, Bolen, Mochty, Suttle, Danek

**POSITIVE HIGHLIGHTS**

Mr. Klinger said Mr. Huizar and Mrs. Miller will present tonight's positive highlight on the newly updated website. Mr. Huizar said he researched various website providers for about the last year and a half and they decided to go with School InSites. Mrs. Miller took the lead on the project and learned how to navigate the site and transfer our information over. He said the new site is easier to navigate and has a helpful search tool. It also allows them to "create once post everywhere", which is a handy tool that allows them to create and post in one place while populating several different areas at the same time. He is pleased with the graphics and how nicely it appears for viewing on a mobile device. The board was pleased to see the updated website and thanked Mr. Huizar and Mrs. Miller for their work on the project and for sharing it with them tonight.

Mr. Butzin arrived at 7:07 p.m.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS – INFORMATION AND PROPOSALS**

Mrs. Ulman asked if there were any public comments on agenda or non-agenda items. There were no comments.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Motion by Bruning, support by VanderVeen to approve the minutes of the September 27, 2021 special board meeting as presented. There were no additions or corrections. Yes: Bruning, Butzin, VanderVeen, Lentz and Edmonds. Abstain: Ulman (absent from that meeting). Motion carried.

Motion by Lentz, support by Butzin to approve the closed session minutes of the September 27, 2021 meeting as presented. There were no additions or corrections. Yes: Butzin, Edmonds, Lentz, VanderVeen and Bruning. Abstain: Ulman (absent from that meeting). Motion carried.

**PAYMENT OF BILLS**

Motion by VanderVeen to approve the monthly contractual and prepaid expenses for the general fund in the amount of \$1,001,180.55, the sinking fund expenses in the amount of \$25,920.00 and the lunch fund expenses in the amount of \$70,593.94. He also moved to approve payment of presented bills for the general fund in the amount of \$57,443.96 as funds become available. There was no sinking fund or lunch fund bills to be paid. Motion supported by Lentz. A roll call vote was taken and the motion carried unanimously.

## **RECEIPT OF WRITTEN COMMUNICATIONS**

Mr. Klinger said he received a letter requesting an unpaid leave of absence from cook's helper Cheryl Whitford. Mrs. Whitford is requesting that her leave begin retroactive to September 9<sup>th</sup> and continue until her doctor releases her to work. Mr. Klinger said he recommends granting the leave through the end of the current school year if needed. Motion by Lentz, support by Bruning to grant Cheryl Whitford an unpaid leave of absence through the end of the current school year. Motion carried unanimously.

## **RECOMMENDATIONS & REPORTS FROM THE ADMINISTRATION**

Mr. Mejeur is recommending the following coaches for winter sports: Todd Kaems for boys' varsity basketball; Chase Blackmore for boys' JV basketball; Gordon Wallace for girls' JV basketball; Kelli King for varsity cheer and Carol Elowsky for middle school volleyball. He also recommends the following non-paid coaches: Kim Miller for girls' bowling; Allen Miller for boys' bowling and Mel Rettell for hockey. The 8<sup>th</sup> grade boys' basketball coaching position is currently still vacant. Motion by VanderVeen, support by Butzin to hire the winter coaches as discussed for the 2021-22 school year. Motion carried unanimously.

## **OLD BUSINESS**

Committee Reports – None.

Legislative Report – Mr. Klinger said Governor Whitmer signed Senate Bill 82 and House Bill 4400 to finalize the state budget. Also, Senate Bills 645 and 664 are being reviewed. These bills would create flexibility around counting students who have to quarantine due to COVID-19 exposures. Three House Bills, 4199, 5097, and 4854 that address schools starting after Labor Day, curriculum content surrounding race or gender stereotyping, and training for mandatory reporters are being monitored for future decisions. Mr. Klinger said the U.S. Department of Education approved Michigan's use of ESSER III funds last Friday. More information will be forthcoming regarding all of these topics.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

Mr. Klinger said Mr. Jerashen requested permission for a fine arts trip to Chicago next spring back in August. He has now secured a second bid for the trip which was shared with the board. Mr. Jerashen said he was able to secure a second quote from Explore America for the trip. The two quotes show considerable differences in pricing with Bennett Travel coming in at \$642 or \$822 per student depending on the number of students participating versus \$1,924 per student from Explore America. Mr. Jerashen said the itineraries are very similar so they could compare fairly. Motion by VanderVeen, support by Butzin to approve the fine arts trip as discussed. Yes: Bruning, Butzin, Edmonds, VanderVeen and Ulman. Abstain: Lentz. Motion carried.

Mrs. Ulman said the closed session will be moved to the end of the meeting following Information and Proposals.

## **INFORMATION & PROPOSALS**

Administration – Mr. Mejeur said Tawas has been accepted into the Northern Michigan Soccer League with the girls' team starting next spring and the boys' team joining next fall. We have been moved down one division in the football league next fall and will still play three crossover games, including against our rival, Oscoda. Boys' soccer districts will be played at Standish, volleyball districts will be held at Whittemore-Prescott on November 3<sup>rd</sup>, junior high cross country will compete October 23<sup>rd</sup> in Gaylord and varsity cross country will be October 30<sup>th</sup> in East Jordan. Mrs. Bolen said the October students of the month have been named and the NWEA fall testing is complete. Teachers will be sharing the data out soon and Title I interventions will be set up. The middle school newsletter will be going out and the coffee fundraiser begins next week. Mrs.

Mochty said the October 1<sup>st</sup> professional development half day went very well and they are planning for the next full day on November 1<sup>st</sup>. She said Rachel's Challenge presentations will be held next Tuesday, October 19<sup>th</sup>, as the assembly day and she is very excited for that. She said the new Character Strong curriculum will coordinate very nicely with that program. Mrs. Danek said this is the second week of after school tutoring and the concrete basketball court is being finished up today. The fundraiser just wrapped up and the book fair will be held next week. The Halloween parade is scheduled for October 29<sup>th</sup> at 1:00 p.m. on the high school track, weather permitting and parent teacher conferences will be held November 10<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup>. Mr. Suttle thanked Mr. Huizar and Mrs. Miller for their work on the website. High school parent teacher conferences will be held Tuesday and Wednesday this week. The marching band competed at the Hastings Invitational recently and finished 2<sup>nd</sup> in Class C, and received a first place award for best music in Class C. Mr. Suttle said the students had a great homecoming week last week and the school pride and spirit were at an all-time high. He said the pep rally had everyone participating and over 300 students attended the homecoming dance. Mr. Klinger thanked the tech department for putting up the new interactive whiteboards in the buildings over the last two weekends. They altered their work schedules so they could work uninterrupted on the weekends. Mr. Klinger said the newly replaced basketball court at Clara Bolen is complete and just needs to cure for a couple days. He said Michigan Glass will be in the district on November 1<sup>st</sup> to finish installing the safety glass at Central Office and in a few rooms at the high school.

From the Board – Mrs. Edmonds thanked the tech department for the newly designed website work and welcomed the new coaches. She congratulated the marching band on their performance and is also excited about the upcoming Rachel's Challenge program. She likes the idea of having the two options for parent teacher conferences with one day in person and one day virtual. Mr. VanderVeen wished the fall sport teams luck in their upcoming district play and is happy to hear we have been accepted into the soccer league. Mr. Butzin agreed with the prior comments and told everyone to keep up the good work. Mrs. Lentz said the new website is great and likes the consistency between buildings. She welcomed the coaches and said the Rachel's Challenge program is great. She congratulated the band on their performance at the Hastings Invitational. Mrs. Bruning said the great school spirit is exciting to see and she is also happy that we will be moving down a division in the football league. Mrs. Ulman thanked the administration for the great job they are doing and is also excited about the Rachel's Challenge program.

### **ADVANCE PLANNING**

Motion by Lentz, support by Bruning to take a short recess at 7:40 p.m. before going into closed session for a personnel matter. Motion carried unanimously.

Motion by Lentz, support by Bruning to go into closed session to discuss a personnel matter at 7:46 p.m. A roll call vote was taken and the motion carried unanimously.

Motion by VanderVeen, support by Bruning to return to open session at 8:40 p.m. A roll call vote was taken and the motion carried unanimously.

Motion by Butzin, support by Bruning to hire Chad Herrick as the wrestling coach for the 2021-22 school year. A roll call vote was taken and the motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Klinger said he would like to schedule a policy and a sinking fund committee meeting in the near future. The policy committee will meet October 25<sup>th</sup> at 5:00 p.m. and the sinking fund committee will meet at 6:00 p.m. the same day.

Motion by VanderVeen, support by Bruning to adjourn at 8:45 p.m. Motion carried unanimously.